

Serial No. 10/605,495
Docket No. 39240.7300

REMARKS

Applicant replies to the Final Office Action dated February 22, 2007, within two months. Thus, Applicant requests an Advisory Action, if necessary. Claims 1-7 and 9-13 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-7 and 9-13. Applicant cancels claims 9 and 11 without prejudice to filing one or more claims having similar subject matter. No new matter is added by this Reply and support for all amendments is found in the originally-filed specification and drawings. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully asserts that amended independent claim 1 and dependent claim 13 include similar elements as the previously submitted dependent claims, so no additional searching or new issues for consideration exist. Specifically, Applicant incorporates claim 9 into independent claim 1, and combines claims 11 and 13, along with claim 5 and 12 now depending from the combined claim 13. As such, Applicant respectfully requests a substantive Advisory Action, if necessary.

The Examiner rejects claim 13 under 35 USC § 112 because the Examiner asserts that the claim is unclear by having a display as a criteria. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because, in part, the display information helps to attribute the donations. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant amends claim 13 to clarify that the collection signal or time interval may be used to attribute donations to a particular charity.

The Examiner next rejects claims 1-3 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tree, U.S. Patent No. 6,651,797 ("Tree"). The Examiner next variously rejects claims 4-7 and 9-13 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tree in view of various combinations of Kloss, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,531,309 ("Kloss"), Molbak, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,564,546 ("Molbak"), Cotton, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,663,538 ("Cotton"), or Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 5,282,765 ("Suzuki"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant asserts that Tree reacts the to each coin insertion, so the lever arm would rotate down after each coin, and drop each coin before a second coin is able to be inserted. In other words, after the first coin insertion, the cup in the Tree device would rotate away from the coin slot so a second coin would not be able to be inserted into the cup. Moreover, it would be difficult for multiple coins to remain in the cup, particularly if the coins landed vertically in the cup. As such, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement about the cup moving varying distances based upon numerous coins in the cup. Even if the cup in Tree traveled different distances, depending on the amount of coins deposited, Tree does not disclose

Serial No. 10/605,495
Docket No. 39240.7300

or suggest different values of coins traveling different paths and through different mechanical devices, all during the same path from insertion to collection bin. In other words, the Tree device only allows a coin to travel along the lever arm path, OR through the bumper posts. As such, the cited references do not disclose or suggest an entertainment donation device "configured to cause said coins, based on an amount of said coins, to travel different paths and through different mechanical devices during said coins travel from said first end to said second end," as recited by independent claim 1.

Additionally, no motivation exists, it is not a design choice, and it would not be obvious to further combine the unique features of claim 1 (namely, "travel different paths and through different mechanical devices during said coins travel from said first end to said second end") with the monitor, time clock and ad/donation display information of dependent claims 5 and 13.

As such, the cited references do not disclose or suggest a donation device which is configured to cause coins to at least "travel different paths and through different mechanical devices during said coins travel from said first end to said second end" AND "includes a coin slot which communicates with a monitor and a time clock, wherein when said coin slot detects a passing of said coins, said coin slot is configured to send a request signal to said time clock for time information to be sent to said monitor, said coin slot configured to send a collection signal to said monitor, said monitor configured to accept said time information and said collection signal and display an indicator of at least one of: a value collected over a time interval, a number of donations over a time interval, a value collected while a certain display is active, and a number of donations while a certain display is active, and wherein said monitor is further configured to display the amount of donations attributable to a particular charity based upon at least one of: the collection signal and time interval when the coins were received," AND "wherein said canister includes a coin slot and a monitor which is configured to display advertisements of certain charities, said coin slot and said monitor communicates with a time clock such that, when said coin slot detects a passing coin, said coin slot is configured to send a request signal to said time clock for said time clock to send time information to said monitor, thereby allowing donations to be correlated with said display advertisements," as recited in dependent claim 5. The cited references also do not disclose or suggest having "an audio device, visual device, light, horn, and reflective surface" in combination with the elements of claim 13.

Further, while the Examiner may have found individual analogous features in five different references, Applicant respectfully asserts that no motivation exists to uniquely combine

Serial No. 10/605,495
Docket No. 39240.7300

the individual features (as set forth in amended claim 1 or further in amended dependent claim 13) into one integrated entertainment donation device. More particularly, many of the references are not donation devices and do not serve the purpose of entertainment and attracting donations for particular charities. For example, the cited references relate to a bank for personal savings of coins, a gaming machine wherein the user hopes to win more money from the machine, a coin sorter wherein the user retrieves of all his money out of the machine in a different form, an appliance control wherein the money is used to receive a service (i.e., washing of clothes), and a personal savings box which simply magnifies the coins.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below. If an extension of time is needed, please accept this as a petition for said extension of time. Attorney for applicants authorizes and requests that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814, including any required extension fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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